



An American Littoral Society Affiliate

January 18, 2006

Jim Hoff, Ph.D.
NOAA Damage Assessment Center
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC-4, Room 10219
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Hoff,

Thank you very much for your request for restoration ideas in response to the Athos I oil spill. I appreciate very much the opportunity.

Let me begin by saying we would **oppose** the use of any of these funds to engage in PSE&G type wetlands projects where herbicides are applied arially or otherwise to large swaths of wetlands in order to transform their vegetative makeup from phragmites to other plant species. The use of herbicides is itself harmful to the estuary ecosystem, such programs/projects are not sustainable without constant intervention and herbicide applications, and the environmental benefits are questionable.

That being said, below are a list of projects, some specific some more general, we would like to see those dollars invested in:

A comprehensive program of restoring floodplain areas on the estuary main stem and along tributary streams – including buyouts of existing structures, removal of floodplain fill, and reforestation.

Salt marsh hydrology restoration - restoring natural drainage to those marshes previously ditched for mosquito control. There is at least one area near Milford Neck in DE.

Watershed specific series of dam removals with follow up restoration - Target a series of dam removals along a specific stream. Its currently happening along the Ridley. Darby Creek is one possibility. The Delaware River Fish and Wildlife Cooperative's American Shad management plan of the 1980s list dozens of dams needed to be removed or laddered to restore shad.

Habitat restoration for horseshoe crabs.

Camden Greenways (Camden City, NJ) -- There are many projects on the Cooper River and Newton Creek within the city of Camden which is tidally influenced as well as up-river in the non tidal portions. Projects could focus on stormwater management, public access and habitat enhancement.

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Projects in Farnham Park (along the Camden Greenway). Projects could include erosion and sediment control or invasive plants removal.

New Camden Park (along the Camden Greenway, Camden, NJ), Create a tidal wetlands to filter stormwater runoff, provide outdoor/hands on education, wildlife habitat and access for new greenways trails.

Saddlers Woods (Haddon Twp., NJ) – This old growth forest is in desperate need of stormwater management projects, including bank stabilization, created wetlands, swales, etc. Invasive plants eradication is already underway, but funding is far from sufficient to complete the project.

I'll happily send along any additional ideas that might arise in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,



Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper